

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

September 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT 1st floor auditorium

Commission Members Present:

MS Dept of Public Safety	George Phillips
MS Department of Corrections	Chris Epps
MS Department of Information Technology Services	David Litchliter
MS Department of Transportation	Willie Huff
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Keith Harkins
MS Department of Homeland Security	Jay Ledbetter
MS Supervisors Association	Joel Yelverton
MS Department of Health	Mike Scales for Ed Thompson
MS Fire Chiefs' Association	Tom Lariviere
Safe City Initiative	Mark McCreery
MS Highway Patrol	Michael Berthay
MS Municipal League	Johnny Dupree
MS Sheriffs' Association	James Newman

Advisory Members Present:

Senator Jack Gordon	Representative Clayton Smith
Senator Hob Bryan	Representative Tyrone Ellis
	Representative Johnny Stringer

Chairman George Phillips called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Chris Epps made the motion, and it was seconded by Willie Huff. The motion passed with none opposed.

Joel Yelverton reported for the Rules Committee. The Mississippi Forestry Commission presented a request to replace mobile radios and accessories over a three year period. The estimated cost of this project for 2008 is \$300,000, which will cover the purchase of 105 mobile radios, 25 tractor radios, and 2 repeaters. Future project costs will be \$275,000 for 2009 and \$25,000 for 2010. All of these proposed purchases would be paid with federal grant monies. Chairman Phillips questioned if the new radios would be compatible with the State system. There was a discussion about compatibility issues. The proposed system will be VoIP and will work with any other system. Mr. Huff stated that the matter of compatibility had been discussed in the subcommittee meeting, and they are satisfied that the systems will be compatible. Senator Hob Bryan questioned the cost of the radios and why the cheaper models would not work. There was a discussion about radio features. Joel Yelverton made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Willie Huff. Chairman Phillips requested that the motion be amended to state that the Forestry Commission provide the interoperability link to the State system in the future. Mr. Yelverton accepted the amendment. The motion passed with none opposed.

Willie Huff presented a request for MDOT. They requested to sign a contract with Cellular South for cellular service and devices for one year. The total cost will be

\$419,689.16, of which \$395,264 will be for recurring annual charges. David Litchliter made a motion to approve the request. It was seconded by Mayor Johnny Dupree. There was discussion. All voted for approving the expenditure with the exceptions of Mayor Dupree voting against the request and Huff abstaining.

Willie Huff reported for the Interoperability Committee. This will be the final report for the committee. The FEMA build out is continuing with site preparation and equipment orders. Interoperable gateways have been established, which allow most state agencies to communicate with Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties. Willie Huff recommended combining the Interoperability and Governance committees. Chairman Phillips stated that he will combine the committees and select the committee members before the next meeting.

Bill Buffington gave an update on the MSWIN project. A secure communications infrastructure was set up to support the attendees at the Southern Governors' Conference (SGC). It was used successfully by conference attendees as well as local law enforcement. Michael Berthay commented that the system worked well during the SGC. There were no dead spots, and it worked from the basement to the top floor of the Beau Rivage. Work is continuing on the rapid deployment system to serve the coast during the hurricane system. It should be completely operational by September 21st. We have received 340 radios from FEMA, and there are another 500 on standby. The Sites on Wheels (SOWs) are ready now. The MSWIN project is on a fast track toward site procurement.

David Litchliter provided the WCC members with a handout of the monthly expenses and stated that a more detailed breakdown could be provided if needed. The contractual services were approved at the last meeting, but there is an outstanding charge from Barnes and Broom. Mr. Litchliter explained that they were not approved by the Attorney General for use by the WCC, but they had done work on the project prior to that, and the attorney general has approved payment for that work. The cost of the two SOWs for the coast was \$312,956. Mr. Litchliter made a motion to approve payment of these expenses. Jay Ledbetter seconded the motion, and it was approved with none opposed.

In other business, Gil Bailey from Harrison County Emergency Communications Commission was recognized to speak. He requested the formation of nine regional communications districts. He stated they wanted to be part of the team and provide their expertise to the project. There was a discussion about representation for the Harrison County Emergency Communications Commission. Representative Ellis stated that the Commission was designed to make sure every entity is represented. Chairman Phillips stated that he would have WCC members meet with the local agencies as this project unfolds. Bill Buffington stated that they have had good contact with the local governments, and plan to have an advisory group, which will report to the Governance Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

The next meeting will be October 4, 2007.